

Higashitani Rural Kabuki

Kabuki is a traditional pursuit of the Higashitani area of Kagawa-cho in the city of Takamatsu. People say Shitaya Kabuki got its start in the Bunsei era (1818–1830), when young people who came to Tokushima to work as indigo dyers started putting on plays to honor the local Shinto gods. When this early form of kabuki was in its heyday, everyone in the area was involved, and there was practically no one who did not appear on a kabuki stage at some point.

With the support of the local populace, in 2001 the newly named Gion-za Noson Kabuki Theater was formed on the grounds of Hirao Hachiman Shrine. Regular performances are held in May each year and occasionally at other times as well.

In 1963, the Kagawacho Cultural Property Preservation Association Kabuki Division was formed, and in 1965 Kagawa Prefecture recognized Higashitani Noson Kabuki as an Intangible Folk Cultural Property.